

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A communication contents certification system for certifying contents of an electronic mail communicated between two or more party communication terminals and two or more attorney communication terminals through a network, the communication contents certification system comprising:

a communication contents certification apparatus comprising:

communication contents receiving means for receiving said electronic mail;

communication contents storage means for storing the contents of said electronic mail;

communication contents transmission means for transmitting said electronic mail; and

charging means for charging a fee associated with use of the communication contents certification apparatus;

a first party communication terminal coupled to the communication contents certification apparatus;

a second party communication terminal coupled to the communication contents certification apparatus;

a first attorney communication terminal coupled to the communication contents certification apparatus; and

a second attorney communication terminal coupled to the communication contents certification apparatus,

wherein the electronic mail ~~[[is]]~~ transmitted from a party communication terminal or an attorney terminal is routed to the communication contents certification apparatus that stores the contents of the electronic mail and authenticates the electronic mail based on ~~the identification and the password~~ an identification and a password of the party sending the electronic mail,

wherein a confirmation message sent from a party terminal receiving the electronic mail is routed through the communication contents certification apparatus that authenticates the confirmation message and stores the confirmation message,

wherein a reply message in response to a received electronic mail transmission is prepared with reference to a comment provided from one of said two or more attorney communication terminals and routed to the communication contents certification apparatus that authenticates and stores the reply message,

wherein the communication contents certification apparatus is owned by another party independent from the two or more parties,

wherein the charging means perform charge processing to charge at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and certifying the contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing the communication contents,

wherein the communication contents storage means stores the communication history of the electronic mail, the confirmation message, and the reply message, and

wherein a contract is formed between the first party and the second party for using the communication contents certification system[[,]].

2. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the first party communication terminal includes a GUI (Graphic User Interface) having a party button display section for selecting electronic mail communication with the second party communication terminal and an attorney button display section for selecting electronic mail communication with the first attorney communication terminal,

wherein the first party communication terminal is adapted to transmit the electronic mail as a function of input to the GUI.

3. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the contents of the electronic mail relate to a contract matter between the first party and the second party.

4. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification system as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the first and second party communication terminals are adapted to transmit reception confirmation information indicating reception of the electronic mail,

and the communication contents receiving means receives the reception confirmation information transmitted from the first and second communication terminals,
and the communication contents storage means stores the reception confirmation information.

5. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the electronic mail is encrypted.

6. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the communication contents certification apparatus further comprises party identification means for identifying a party using the party communication terminal from which the electronic mail was transmitted.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication contents certification method for certifying contents of an electronic mail communicated between two or more party communication terminals and two or more attorney communication terminals through a network comprising:

transmitting ~~[[an]]the~~ electronic mail from a party communication terminal or an attorney communication terminal ;

routing the electronic mail through a communication contents certification apparatus that authenticates the electronic mail based on an identification and a password of a terminal sending the electronic mail and stores the electronic mail;

transmitting a confirmation message from a party terminal receiving the electronic mail;

routing the confirmation message through the communication contents certification apparatus that authenticates the confirmation message and stores the confirmation message;

preparing a reply message in response to the received electronic mail with reference to a comment provided from an attorney terminal;

transmitting and routing the reply message through the communication contents certification apparatus that authenticates the reply message and stores the reply message;

storing the communication history of the electronic mail, the confirmation message, and the reply message in the communication contents certification apparatus; and

charging at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and the certifying contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing the communication contents,

wherein the communication contents certification terminal is owned by another party independent from the two or more parties, and

wherein a contract is formed among the two or more parties and the two or more attorneys for using the communication contents certification system.

8. (Previously Presented) The communication contents certification method
as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the contents of the electronic mail relate to information concerning a
contract matter among the two or more parties.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing information
~~recorded therein~~ an executable program, which when executed, ~~the executable program~~
~~cause~~causes a computer to certify an electronic mail among two or more party terminals or two
or more attorney terminals according to a certification method, the certification method
comprising steps of:

transmitting an electronic mail from a party communication terminal or an
attorney communication terminal;

routing the electronic mail through a communication contents certification
apparatus that authenticates the electronic mail based on an identification and a password of a
terminal sending the electronic mail and stores the electronic mail;

transmitting a confirmation message from a party terminal receiving the electronic
mail;

routing the confirmation message through the communication contents
certification apparatus that authenticates the confirmation message and stores the confirmation
message;

preparing a reply message in response to the received electronic mail with
reference to a comment provided from an attorney terminal;

transmitting and routing the reply message through the communication contents
certification apparatus that authenticates the reply message and stores the reply message;

storing the communication history of the electronic mail, the confirmation
message, and the reply message in the communication contents certification apparatus; and

charging at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and the
certifying contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the
communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing
the communication contents,

wherein the communication contents certification terminal is owned by another
party independent from the two or more parties, and

wherein a contract is formed among the two or more parties and the two or more
attorneys for using the communication contents certification system.